Ans 3. Dec 25

San Francisco, Cal. Dec. 23. 1885

Dr. Torrey

Dear Sir

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

It gives me much pleasure to communicate with you upon matters of mutual interest.

Some years since I called to make your personal acquaintance, but you were absent. I had at that time some drawings of both new & rare plants altho at that time I did not know it myself but they have since been published.

Now with copies from my drawings. I will send them at any time — if my duties will permit my making them — Those now most of them at the Smithsonian Institution & some are in the hands of Dr. J. S. Newberry These are drawings of all the Cucurbits of which I have sketches i.e. three (I am not right sure of sending more than two species) there are many varieties here of the Megarrhiza, evidently some of those enumerated in your letter — My Mora — I think quite distinct — The drawing is as above stated at Washington at this time. I sent by Dr. Andrews last Summer

dried Specimens for your examination. also seeds. I have both dried Specimens & seeds which I will send you by the first opportunity & also some of the fresh fruit preserved in Spts. The Specimen from the interior at Placerville I have been inclined to consider also distinct — I think I sent a drawing of this one also on to Washington, altho I am not sure

We labour under great disadvantages here having few books of reference, in fact, almost none. when we first began our efforts — so much so as to make it almost if not quite presumptuous to publish any thing. At present we are more favourably situated altho very far from possessing a tithe of what we ought to have to guarantee against errors.

Some of the plants described we have only a single Specimen. I think of the last named Cucurbit it is uncertain whether we have any of the fruit preserved, if I find it on examination I will send it.

I think many of our Specimens might be sent & run the risk of loss, at least it will not be long before we are better supplied

The list of plants enclosed I bound to a careful friend who will copy it & I have to obtain them if possible for you & such information as you desire.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

as soon as they come to hand — I will write & communicate such information as I am able to collect.

The Cucurbit most common here upon our Sandy coast hills — I examined & wrote an article for the newspapers here before the formation of any Scientific Society on the Pacific Coast. At that time I compared it with your description and concluded it could not be the Sicyos oreganus or of that genus. The roots of all those I have seen are perennial & very large I have often seen them two or three feet in diameter — they are really gigantic the fruit is 4-celled & 4-seeded (or by abortion sometimes less) / the armature of the fruit varies, & also the form of the seeds I send you as you will observe by those I send you. I suppose from not mentioning the fact, that Dr. Andrews has not shown you the Specimens I sent by him for your examination on your eye.

Since writing the above I find by reference to a report written by me at the first formation of our society. That plant in question was the subject / In that it was suggested that with some slight alterations in the description of Sicyos by its evident affinity to that genus, it should be classed there.

Some of the Specimens sent by Dr. Andrews were hoary with stout barbed spines an inch or more in length.

"The Pacific" April 8th A.D. 1853 (# rarely an eight seeded (fruit is seen & often one seeded)

TORREY BOTANICAL CLUB
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The generic description of Nuyaby so I have not yet seen nor the other work you refer to.

I will obtain the new pictures about from the upper Sacramento at the 1st opportunity.

My manual labour duties are too arduous for one to promise much except incidentally by influence & the interest I can enlist.

Yours Truly

A. Kellogg M.D.

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE
HERBARIUM
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

To John Torrey
N. Y.

A Kellogg